



Weather Policies for the Tri-Cities Baseball Softball Association *Released as of September 21, 2018*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tri-Cities Baseball Softball Association (“TCBSA” or the “league”) utilizes ballfield complexes in conjunction with authorization from the cities of Bedford and Hurst (the “City”). As such, playability of the fields noted herein is in conjunction with the cities to keep players and player families safe, while also avoiding misuse damage to the field complexes during potential weather conditions. Procedures herein provide a guide for use in evaluating the playing conditions.

Please note that each weather event is different and can impact each of the various complexes with a differing result. For all weather condition evaluations (incoming storms, distance of lightning strikes, etc.) the application of choice will be Weatherbug on the Android and iOS platforms.

1.0 PRECIPITATION – NO LIGHTNING OR SEVERE WEATHER

- 1.1 PRIOR TO ARRIVAL/GAME TIME:** For games played at TCBSA complexes on weeknight (Monday – Friday) evenings the City Parks point of contact will notify the league of field condition playability around 4:00 pm for games. For weekend (Saturday or Sunday) games the City notifies the league of field conditions around 7:00 am. Based on the notifications the league will update the website and social media accounts with the field conditions if a field and/or complex is deemed unplayable. The scheduling system within the website is set to show closed fields on the homepage of the website and notify impacted teams. If no notifications or update is provided, the fields should be considered playable.
- 1.2 PRIOR TO GAME START:** In the event that precipitation has begun, warm-ups have started, and game play has not commenced, league board members present at locations will evaluate field conditions prior to games starting to ensure field playability is within safe conditions. If a board member is not present at the complex the head coaches should contact the age group commissioner for further evaluation in conjunction with umpires present for evaluation of field playability safety.
- 1.3 GAME PLAY COMMENCED:** If game play has started and precipitation begins:
 - 1.3.1** Play may continue in the rain, understanding that (1) the field conditions remain safe and (2) lightning is not observed in the area.
 - 1.3.2** When a board member is present, the senior board member present will lead the evaluation decision process for playing condition safety in conjunction with the umpire crews. When a board member is not present, the umpire crew will lead the evaluation decision process for playing condition safety in conjunction with the head coaches. Contact with the age group commissioner is encouraged in the process.



- 1.3.3 If play is stopped for heavy rain conditions at one field in the complex, play will be suspended on all fields for group evaluation by decision makers (defined in 1.3.2). A thirty (30) minute delay is enforced for heavy rain, unless the rain passes more quickly and field conditions allow play to resume. During this delay it is not required to exit the stands or dugouts as long as lightning is not present.
- 1.3.4 After the maximum 30 minute delay, the appropriate decision makers will evaluate current field and weather conditions to determine if game play shall resume or cancel. Cancelled games will follow General Playing Rules 6.5 - Rained Out Games.

2.0 LIGHTNING AND/OR SEVERE WEATHER

- 2.1 **GENERAL:** In the event that severe weather is approaching the area, all TCBSA members should assist in monitoring the weather by monitoring the defined phone app, observing lightning, and listen for thunder. Board Members shall not hesitate to suspend games due to imminent threat of severe weather and/or lightning.
- 2.2 **INFORMATIONAL:** Monitor local weather forecasts including the National Weather Service-issued (NWS) thunderstorm “watch” and “warning”.
 - 2.2.1 Watch means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area. Play will be allowed to continue under watch conditions with increased vigilance.
 - 2.2.2 Warning means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take precautions. Play will be suspended in the event of a warning in the field specific area when conditions require.
- 2.3 **LIGHTNING SAFETY RULES – PLAY SUSPENSION:** During observed storm lightning the “30-30” Rule will be in effect. From the first observed lightning strike/thunder heard evaluation of distance will be performed with the approved phone app and the Flash to Bang method. Lightning awareness should be increased with the first flash of lightning and/or the first clap of thunder. The important aspect to monitor is how far away the lightning is occurring, and how fast the storm is approaching, relative to the distance of safe shelter. Play will be suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes when lightning is within 6 miles (30 seconds using Flash to Bang). Once games have been suspended due to lightning, players, coaches, and fans must immediately clear the field area and wait in their vehicles during the delay.
 - 2.3.1 **FLASH TO BANG:** Count the number of seconds, once lightning is sighted, until the thunder (bang) is heard. Divide by 5 to obtain how far away (in miles) the lightning is occurring.
 - 2.3.2 **WEATHERBUG PHONE APP:** Use the Lightning feature to see distance (miles) and time of recent strikes in the area.



2.4 LIGHTNING SAFETY RULES – PLAY RESUMES: Resumption of play can continue only when lightning or thunder has not been detected for 30 minutes. Every time lightning or thunder is detected within the 30 minutes, THE 30 MINUTE CLOCK RESTARTS. After the minimum initial 30 minute delay, the appropriate decision makers will evaluate current field and weather conditions to determine if game play shall resume or cancel. Cancelled games will follow General Playing Rules 6.5 - Rained Out Games.

3.0 SEVERE TEMPERATURE

3.1 GENERAL: Situations of extreme heat (excessive sustained temperatures over 100°F) or cold (excessive sustained temperatures below 40°F) will be evaluated by the league executive committee and age group commissioners on a game day by game day basis, as needed, with the safety of the players in mind. Changes communicated may not impact all age groups divisions or all periods of the game day.